

AMENDMENT

1-17. (CANCELLED)

18. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method of detecting an event and generating and updating a trigger, the method comprising the steps of:

a) evaluating a patient to determine at least one health symptom experienced by the patient;

generating a trigger based upon historical occurrences of at least one health symptom experienced by a plurality of patients, wherein the step of generating is performed by a main computer;

b) monitoring occurrences of the at least one health symptom within a time window;

c) comparing the occurrences of the at least one health symptom within the time window to a the trigger value, wherein the step of comparing the occurrences is performed by the main computer;

d) activating an alert indicating the occurrence of an event when the occurrences of the at least one health symptom exceed the trigger value; and

e) generating a trigger based upon historical occurrences of the at least one health symptom within the time window; and

f) updating the trigger at an update frequency, wherein the step of updating includes adding new occurrences to the historical occurrences and dropping old occurrences from the historical occurrences, wherein the step of updating the trigger is performed by the main computer.

19-46. (CANCELLED)

47. (NEW) A method of detecting an event, the method comprising the steps of:
 - monitoring occurrences of a plurality of health symptoms experienced by a plurality of patients, wherein the step of monitoring the occurrences is performed by a main computer;
 - comparing the occurrences of the plurality of health symptoms to a plurality of triggers, each of the plurality of triggers associated with one of a plurality of different events, wherein the step of comparing the occurrences is performed by the main computer; and
 - activating an alert indicating the occurrence of one of the plurality of events when the occurrences exceed an associated one of the plurality of triggers.
48. (NEW) The method as recited in claim 47 further including the step of receiving the occurrences of the plurality of health symptoms from an emergency services dispatcher.
49. (NEW) The method as recited in claim 48 further including the step of receiving the occurrences of the plurality of health symptoms from a dispatcher computer.
50. (NEW) The method as recited in claim 48 further including the step of receiving the occurrences of the plurality of health symptoms from a first geographical area.
51. (NEW) The method as recited in claim 50 further including the step of accumulating occurrences of the plurality of health symptoms in a second geographical area which includes the first geographical area and which is larger than the first geographical area.
52. (NEW) The method as recited in claim 50 wherein information about the plurality of health symptoms is provided at a variable time.
53. (NEW) The method as recited in claim 47 further including the steps of receiving a geographic location of each of the occurrences of the plurality of health symptoms and associating the geographical location with each of the occurrences of the plurality of health symptoms.
54. (NEW) The method as recited in claim 53 further including the step of displaying the geographical location of each of the occurrences of the plurality of health symptoms on a display.

55. (NEW) The method as recited in claim 47 further including the step of adjusting a first trigger of the plurality of triggers to generate a new first trigger and then comparing the new first trigger to the occurrences.

56. (NEW) The method as recited in claim 47 wherein the triggers are statistical variations of historical values of the occurrences of the plurality of health symptoms.

57. (NEW) The method as recited in claim 47 further including the step of weighting the plurality of health symptoms relative to one another.

58. (NEW) The method as recited in claim 47 further including the step of calculating the plurality of triggers prior to the step of comparing the occurrences of the health symptoms to the plurality of triggers.

59. (NEW) The method as recited in claim 47 wherein the plurality of health symptoms include headache, fever, fainting, clammy, unconscious, bleeding, vomiting and nausea.

60. (NEW) The method as recited in claim 47 wherein the events include a biological attack and a chemical attack.

61. (NEW) The method as recited in claim 47 wherein step of the monitoring occurrences of the plurality of health symptoms further is performed within a time window.

62. (NEW) The method as recited in claim 61 further including the step of generating the plurality of triggers based upon historical occurrences of the plurality of one health symptoms within the time window.

63. (NEW) The method as recited in claim 62 further including the step of updating the plurality of triggers at an update frequency, the step of updating including the step of adding new occurrences to the historical occurrences.

64. (NEW) The method as recited in claim 62 wherein the plurality of triggers is based upon criteria, the method further including the steps of changing criteria of the plurality of triggers and recalculating the plurality of triggers based upon the changed criteria and the historical occurrences.

65. (NEW) The method as recited in claim 64 wherein the at least one health symptom includes a plurality of symptoms, and the criteria for the plurality of triggers includes the plurality of symptoms, the step of changing the criteria including the step of adding a symptom to the plurality of symptoms.

66. (NEW) The method as recited in claim 64 wherein the criteria for the plurality of triggers includes the plurality of symptoms and a statistical relationship to the historical occurrences, the step of changing the criteria including the step of changing the statistical relationship to the historical occurrences.

67. (NEW) The method of claim 47 further including the step of adjusting a sensitivity of the plurality of triggers.

68. (NEW) The method of claim 67 wherein the step of adjusting the sensitivity of the plurality of triggers is based on a national threat level.

69. (NEW) The method of claim 47 further including the steps of contacting an emergency services dispatcher to report the at least one health symptom and then inputting the at least one health symptom into a dispatcher computer.

70. (NEW) A system for detecting an event, the system comprising:

a main computer for monitoring occurrences of at least one health symptom, for comparing the occurrences of the at least one health symptom to a trigger, and for detecting which of at least one of a plurality of different events is causing the occurrences of the at least one health symptom; and

an alert system indicating an alert based upon a comparison of the occurrences of the at least one health symptom to the trigger to indicate the occurrence of an event.

71. (NEW) The system as recited in claim 70 further including a plurality of input computers for gathering occurrences of the at least one health symptom.

72. (NEW) The system as recited in claim 70 wherein the main computer determines a geographic location of the at least one health symptom.

73. (NEW) The system as recited in claim 72 further including a visual display that displays a location of the at least one health symptom.

74. (NEW) The system as recited in claim 70 wherein the trigger is based on a statistical variation of a historical value of the at least one health symptom.

75. (NEW) The system as recited in claim 70 wherein the at least one health symptom is one of headache, fever, fainting, clammy, unconscious, bleeding, vomiting and nausea.

76. (NEW) The system of claim 70 wherein the at least one health symptom includes a plurality of symptoms.

77. (NEW) The system of claim 76 wherein the trigger is based upon historical occurrences of the plurality of symptoms.

78. (NEW) The system of claim 77 wherein the trigger is updated at an update frequency, wherein new occurrences are added to the historical occurrences to update the trigger.

79. (NEW) The system of claim 70 wherein a sensitivity of the trigger is adjusted.
80. (NEW) The system of claim 79 wherein the sensitivity of the trigger is based on a national threat level.
81. (NEW) The system of claim 70 wherein a person contacts an emergency services dispatcher to report the at least one health symptom and the emergency services dispatcher inputs the at least one health symptom into a dispatcher computer.
82. (NEW) The system as recited in claim 70 wherein the event is one of a chemical attack and a biological attack.
83. (NEW) A method of detecting an event, the method comprising the steps of:
 - monitoring an occurrence of a first health symptom;
 - monitoring an occurrence of a second health symptom, wherein the first health symptom is different from the second health symptom;
 - determining which of at least one of a plurality of different events is occurring by using the first health symptom and the second health symptom, wherein the step of determining is performed by a main computer;
 - comparing the occurrences of the first health symptom and the second health symptom to a trigger, wherein the step of comparing is performed by the main computer; and
 - activating an alert indicating the occurrence of an event when the occurrences of the first health symptom and the second health symptom exceed the trigger, wherein the step of activating the alert is performed by an alert system.
84. (NEW) The method as recited in claim 83 further including the step of adjusting the trigger to generate a new trigger and then comparing the new trigger to the occurrences of the first health symptom and the second health symptom.

85. (NEW) The method as recited in claim 83 wherein the step of monitoring the occurrence of the first health symptom is performed independently of the step of monitoring the occurrence of the second health symptom.

86. (NEW) A system for detecting an event, the system comprising:

a main computer for monitoring occurrences of a first health symptom and a second health symptom, for comparing the occurrences of the first health symptom and the second health symptom to a trigger, and for determining which of at least one of a plurality of different events is occurring by using the first health symptom and the second health symptom, wherein the first health symptom is different from the second health symptom; and

an alert system indicating an alert based upon a comparison of the occurrences of the first health symptom and the second health symptom to the trigger to indicate the occurrence of an event.

87. (NEW) The system as recited in claim 86 wherein the trigger is adjustable.

88. (NEW) The system as recited in claim 86 wherein the first health symptom is monitored independently from the second health symptom.

89. (NEW) The system as recited in claim 86 wherein the event is one of a chemical attack and a biological attack.

90. (NEW) The system as recited in claim 86 wherein the event is one of a plurality of different events.

91. (NEW) A system for detecting an event, the symptom comprising:

a main computer for monitoring occurrences of at least one health symptom with a time window, for generating a trigger based upon historical occurrences of the at least one health symptom with the time window, for comparing the occurrences of the at least one health symptom to a trigger, and for updating the trigger at an update frequency, wherein the step of updating includes adding new occurrences to the historical occurrences and dropping old occurrences from the historical occurrences, and the at least one health symptom is determined by evaluating a patient; and

an alert system indicating an alert based upon a comparison of the occurrences of the at least one health symptom to the trigger to indicate the occurrence of an event.